

Driving in a safe manner includes mirrors

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As Americans we are enamored of our personnel freedoms, one of which is our love affair with our cars. Mass transit has never caught on in the US as in other countries, in part because we like our individual vehicles and the independence it provides for our hectic schedules. As Guardsmen many of you drive from Cleveland, Columbus and points beyond to come to duty here in Mansfield. We really spend a lot of time in our vehicles commuting back and forth.

To make that drive a lot safer, I would like to propose a change in the way you set your car mirrors. Doesn't sound very exciting I realize, but it is very effective. Chief Musille, 179th Ground Safety Manager, and myself, have been using this method for the last six months or more and highly recommend it.

Traditionally most people are trained to set our mirrors so we just view the side of our vehicle as we sit in our normal driving position. This method of setting your mirrors provides visual information about the cars to your rear, but not those to your side in the immediate vicinity of your car. The problem with this method is it leaves major blind spots around your vehicle that could result in an accident during lane changes. I am sure most of you have had a close call with a lane change or maybe even an accident. Usually this happens when we need to, or are forced to make a quick lane change and we have not cleared properly prior to the change. (Did you know that at highway speeds a glance over your shoulder results in over 100 feet traveled?)

There are more than 600,000 lane change accidents each year in the US. Two hundred people die in these accidents and more than 60% of drivers in these accidents say "they did not see the other vehicle."

To set your mirrors to eliminate these blind spots, you need to turn your mirrors out. As you sit in the drivers' seat, lean

to the left against the window. With your head on the window, set your left mirror so that you barely see the rear of your car. Next, lean to the right until you are approximately in the center of the vehicle. (Your head should be aligned with your rearview mirror). Now glance at your passenger side mirror and set this mirror outward until you just barely see the side of the car. (After driving a little bit and observing traffic through all your mirrors, you may want to refine these basic settings slightly.)

Your rearview mirror remains set as it always has been, providing a view of your entire back window.

The new combination of your rearview mirror and side view mirrors now visually track traffic constantly. If you have set the mirrors correctly, as traffic from the rear starts to depart your rearview mirror, they come into view in the side view mirrors. The traffic remains in the side view mirror until it is directly abeam- if not in front of your vehicle.

Take care and keep safety in mind both at home and on the job!

Honor guard supports flight 93 dedication



The 179th Honor Guard pays tribute to those who lost their lives on flight 93.

Four members of the 179th Honor Guard posted the colors during the national anthem at a dedication ceremony for those on flight 93 killed on Sept. 11.

Senior Master Sgt. Tom Jones, Master Sgt. Juan Obregon, Master Sgt. Richard Schuller and Tech. Sgt. Tom Koehler raised the flag on a flag pole in Oberlin, Ohio at the Cleveland Center

FAA on June 14, 2002.

The pole was dedicated "in honor of the men and women of Cleveland Center and those aboard flight 93 for their heroic actions on September 11, 2001."

The Cleveland Center was the last tower to have communication with the airliner before it crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.